

Serial No.: 09/382,553

Attorney Docket No.: 99P7755US

**REMARKS**

Upon entry of the instant Amendment, Claims 1-29 are pending. Claims 1, 13, and 24 have been amended to more particularly point out Applicants' invention.

Claims 1-29 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Lo et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,933,967 ("Lo"). Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention is not taught, suggested, or implied by Lo.

As discussed in response to the previous Official Action, the present invention thus allows, for example, updating a multiple of types of objects and coordinating such updating across the network. In one embodiment, the network includes one or more instances of a first object type and one or more instances of a second object type. The first object type is associated with a first product of the communication network and the second object type is associated with a second product of the network. The network includes, e.g., a first local module for configuring each instance of the first object type and a second local module for configuring each instance of the second object type. A network management server of the network includes a product specific coordinator. The product specific coordinator includes means for coordinating configuration activities among each instance of the first object type via the first local module and means for coordinating configuration activities among each instance of the second object type via the second local module.

The network further includes a network coordinator adapted for configuring each instance of a network object. The network object may include a first component associated with the first object type and a second component associated with the second object type. One or more of the first and second components may be present across one or more nodes. A suitable network object might include, as an example, a person object that includes a PBX component and a phone mail component.

Serial No.: 09/382,553

Attorney Docket No.: 99P7755US

Advantageously, the network object allows definition of changes in a relatively simple, modular, network-wide manner.

Thus, Claim 1 has been amended to recite "wherein at least one of said first object type and said second object type includes components residing in different nodes of an associated domain;" Claim 13 has been amended to recite "wherein at least one of said first component and said second component includes components residing in a plurality of nodes of an associated domain;" and Claim 24 has been amended to recite "wherein said first component and said second component reside in different nodes."

In contrast, as acknowledged in the Official Action, Lo does not provide either separate local means or separate instance configuration of the first and second object types. Furthermore, Lo does not relate to a *network object* that may include a first component associated with the *first object type* and a second component associated with the *second object type*, as generally recited in the claims at issue. Instead, in Lo, elements that are to be updated appear to be required to be defined and updated separately, in contrast to the approach of embodiments of the present invention, which allow for a relatively simple and modular approach to network configuration, in that a network object may be defined across nodes, which can then be updated by separate local means.

Because none of these components are even present in Lo, Applicants respectfully submit that Lo cannot "perform the same function" as the present invention. Further, contrary to the suggestion in the Official Action, not only does Lo not perform a same function, but Lo also does not even recognize that its approach may be problematic. As such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of the claims.

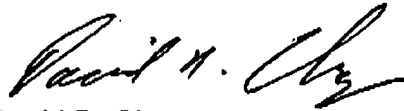
Serial No.: 09/382,553

Attorney Docket No.: 99P7755US

For all of the above reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance, which allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully requested,

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